

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 SCA-01 ABF-01 PPTE-00

VOE-00 FSE-00 AID-05 PC-05 L-03 /040 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2343

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS ACCRA 3224

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: CVIS EFIN GH

SUB: FOREIGN EXCHANGE VOUCHERS AS VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR GHANA

REF: (A) ACCRA 1050, (B) ACCRA 1102, (C) ACCRA 1456

(D) ACCRA 3225, (NOTAL),

1. "CEDI VOUCHER" REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN VISAS FOR GHANA
CONTINUES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN INCONSISTENT MANNER, WITH
ANOMALIES IN APPLICATION. BANK OF GHANA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE
HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF PROBLEMS, AND PROMISES TO ISSUE
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CLARIFYING AND MODIFYING INSTRUCTIONS AT SOME FUTURE DATE. IN INTERIM, BANK OF GHANA WILLING TO CONSIDER AND ON OCCASION ISSUING FULL OR PARTIAL EXEMPTIONS. CLEARLY BANK AND GOG DESIRE TO ASSURE LEGAL EXCHANGE OF FOREIGN CURRENCY BUT NOT RPT NOT DISCOURAGE TRAVEL TO GHANA, WHICH HAS BEEN EFFECT IN SOME CASES.

2. E/C COUNSELOR TOOK UP NUMBER OF CASES LATE APRIL 29 WITH MRS. MAYSEL S. DONTOH, CHIEF, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE DEPT., BANK OF GHANA, P.O. BOX 2674, CABLE ADDRESS GHANA BANK, TELEPHONES 66902/8 AND 66174/6, ACCRA. SHE INDICATED AT LEAST PARTIAL WAIVERS CAN BE OBTAINED FOR GOOD CAUSE. IN NUMBER OF CASES GHANA DIPLOMATIC/CONSULAR OFFICE ISSUING VISA, NOTABLY HICOMMISSION LONDON, HAS TRANSMITTED REQUESTES FOR WAIVER TO BANK EXPEDITIOUSLY. IN OTHER CASES APPARENTLY INCLUDING EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND CONGEN NEW YORK, APPLICANTS HAVE BEEN TOLD "PAY CEDIS 70 PLUS FOR EACH DAY CEDIS 20 OR NO VISA." IN LATTER CASE MRS. DONTOH SUGGESTS DIRECT APPLICATION TO HER FOR EXEMPTION.

3. TYPES OF CASES RAISED BY COUNSELOR WHICH SHE PROMISED TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY INCLUDE:

A. AID CONTRACT EMPLOYEES, WITH REGULAR PASSPORT (SEPARATE REQUEST FOR BLANKET WAIVER WILL BE SUBMITTED FROM HERE).

B. ADULT CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND OTHER NEAR RELATIVES OF THOSE ALREADY IN GHANA, INCLUDING SUCH RELATIVES OF USG EMPLOYEES HERE, WHO WILL BE STAYING IN PRIVATE HOMES. E.G., THEY MAY BE ASKED TO BUY VOUCHERS FOR ONLY 14 DAYS REGARDLESS OF LENGTH OF STAY, AND A COUPLE MAY BE COUNTED AS ONE PERSON FOR VOUCHER PURPOSES.

C. STUDENT, PROFESSIONSAL, AND OTHER GROUPS ON EXCHANGE OR OTHER PROGRAMS WHO HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO STAY WITH FAMILIES.

4. IN ANY CASE, VISAS NORMALLY ISSUED ONLY FOR 14 DAYS, AFTER WHICH RENEWAL MUST BE REQUESTED IN GHANA. MRS.DONTOH STATES THAT BAK WILL CLARIFY WITH IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES THAT CEDI VOUCHERS WILL NOT NORMALLY BE REQUIRED UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR VISA EXTENSIONS IF VOUCHERS BOUGHT AT TIME OF ORIGINAL VISA OBTAINED OR UPON ENTRY INTO GHANA; I.E., NORMALLY VISITOR CAN COUNT ON HAVING TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM OF 14 DAYS' WORTH OF VOUCHERS. THIS IS APPROX DOLS 287 (CEDIS 330: 70 FOR FIRST DAY AND 20 FOR EACH OF 13 DAYS).

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